

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

DATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2014
TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: SCOTT H. NEAL, CITY MANAGER
RE: FRIDAY REPORT FOR JUNE 13, 2014

FRIDAY REPORT



- 1. Minnehaha Creek Flooding** – As of Thursday, June 12, Minnehaha Creek was about an inch lower than last Saturday. We received a little over a third of an inch on Wednesday, June 11, causing only a slight increase in elevation to the creek on Thursday. The good news is that things are remaining stable and slightly decreasing to an elevation of 930.53 at Lake Minnetonka, which is still above previous year's record high, but about an inch and a half below the peak of 930.66 that was set earlier this spring. Water still continues to travel over the dam and is discharging from Lake Minnetonka at a rate of 509 cfs. We have not received any new requests for additional sandbags in the Cascade, Woodcrest or Sunnyslope areas. We still have 27 pallets of sandbags available to distribute if needed.
- 2. Edinborough Park Financial Turnaround** – In 2009, Edinborough Park ended the year with an operating budget deficit of \$401,771. By 2012, we had reduced that annual operating budget deficit to \$111,832. At its June 17 meeting, the City Council will receive the City's 2013 independent financial audit. Our 2013 audit will show that Edinborough Park ended 2013 with an operating surplus of \$7,962. We can all be proud of this result.
- 3. Edinborough Lighting Retrofit** – The total installed cost of the new energy-efficient lighting in Edinborough Park was \$101,459. We received a rebate of \$60,875 from Xcel Energy for installing the new fixtures and bulbs, which brought the total cost of the new lighting down to \$40,583. The estimated monthly savings on our energy costs is \$4,373, giving us an estimated payback of nine months.
- 4. About Town** – After more than a decade of writing contemporary history pieces for *About Town*, columnist Joe Sullivan has decided to retire. Joe has written more than 50 pieces for the City and his columns have been a favorite among *About Town* readers. Edina Historical Society Marci Matson will write the history piece for the summer issue of *About Town*.
- 5. GIS** – Geographic Technologies Group (GTG) is nearing completion of its assessment of the City's GIS. GTG representatives were on site last week to present their preliminary findings, which indicate the City has outgrown LOGIS as a GIS vendor and has fallen behind in use of GIS technology. Staff will review and determine next steps after the final report is submitted to the City later this month.
- 6. Hazelton Road** – The contractor is making great progress on Hazelton Road. If the weather continues to be dry, we anticipate concrete curb and gutter and bituminous paving to be completed during the week of June 16 for the west half of

the road, closest to France Avenue. This should allow us to open access from France Avenue after signing and pavement markings are installed.

7. **Straucher Park** – Approximately half of the Strachauer Park B Neighborhood project has street pavement installed. It's always a relief when the first layer of pavement is installed on our neighborhood projects. It is especially true this year with the continued wet weather.
8. **New City Management Fellow** – Our new City Management Fellow, Lindy Crawford, joins our team on Monday, June 16. She will be with us until June 2015.
9. **Nine Mile Creek Trail Update** – Preliminary engineering continues for the 7.5-mile segment of the Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail in Edina. Three Rivers Park District staff have been working with the design consultant and City staff to resolve a few remaining design issues. The proposed final alignment was considered and recommended by the Park Board at its June 10 meeting. It will also be considered for recommendation by the Transportation Commission on June 17. The City Council will consider the proposed final alignment at its July 1 meeting.

On May 20, an informational packet was mailed to 49 residential properties whose property line is within 50 feet of the planned trail edge to offer vegetative or fencing screening options. Reasonable screening was a requirement of the Edina City Council for its approval of the trail corridor alignment. Residents were given the option of choosing their screening choice online or by contacting Park District staff directly. To date, 25 property owners have responded and Park District staff have met in person or by phone with 16 of the respondents to discuss the project and the screening options. An additional 21 informational packets with the available screening options will be mailed out within the next week to property owners in two areas where the trail alignment was only recently solidified.